

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules)	WT Docket No. 01-309
Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones)	RM-8658

Hearing Aid Compatibility Report¹

Farmers Cellular Telephone Company ("Reporter"), a digital wireless service provider, pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's ("Commission" or "FCC") *Order* in WT Docket No. 07-309, FCC 03-168, 29 CR 1299 (August 14, 2003), hereby files a report concerning the availability of digital phones for the hearing impaired. This report does not address the reporting requirements of the *Order* which are properly addressed by handset manufacturers who are in the best position to report about their own activities.

I. Carrier Information

Reporter is a small Commercial Mobile Radio Services carrier that provides service in Alabama. Reporter has not received a request for a HAC handset.

II. Handset Discussion

Reporter has researched information for various manufacturers including Motorola, Nokia, Ericsson, Panasonic, and Kyocera regarding hearing impaired phones and none of them have any

¹ On July 7, 2004 the FCC published notice that it had obtained OMB approval to collect hearing aid compatibility reports from wireless carriers. 69 Fed. Reg. 40928 (Wednesday, July 7, 2004) provides that "the effective date for this collection and associated reporting requirement . . . is July 7, 2004." Pursuant to the *Report and Order, Amendment of Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones*, 68 Fed. Reg. 54173 (September 16, 2003), reports are due every six months after rule effectiveness. Because the FCC has indicated that its rules became effective as of July 7, 2004, the first report appears to be due on January 7, 2005. However, Reporter is interested in beginning the reporting process sooner.

that are available to test. It is Reporter's understanding that none of the phones which Reporter is able to obtain at this time from its manufacturers would meet the FCC's hearing aid compatibility requirements. A hands-free tele-coil neck loop is on the market, but the supply is limited and it seems to be a hands-free neck loop accessory used by those with tele-coil compatible hearing aids. It is Reporter's understanding that this device does not meet FCC requirements as outlined in the *Report and Order*.

III. Hearing Aid Compatible Handset Labeling/Insert Requirement

None of Reporter's handsets have a label attached on the handset or included in the packaging which discusses the use of the phones for the hearing impaired.

IV. Outreach Efforts & Interoperability

Reporter intends to educate its subscribers, and potential subscribers, about the service when the phones become available to Report for retail distribution. The lack of availability precludes testing compatible phones on our system.

Respectfully Submitted,

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